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Activities not classified by field: programme questions
(United Nations Statistics Division)

Draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2004-2005

Note by the Secretariat**

1. The draft programme of work in the field of statistics for the biennium 2004-2005, which is contained in the annex to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Statistical Commission in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. In section I, paragraph 7 of its resolution 52/220, the General Assembly stressed the role of the relevant intergovernmental bodies in the consideration of the narrative of the proposed programme budget, as well as the necessity for a timely presentation of their recommendations on the budget.

2. The draft programme of work has been formulated within the framework of subprogramme 5 (Statistics) of programme 7 (Economic and social affairs) of the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. It will be implemented by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

3. Efforts are currently under way to prepare baseline and target data for inclusion within the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

4. The Commission is invited to make comments and recommendations, as appropriate, on the draft programme of work. Those comments and recommendations will be taken into account by the Secretary-General, as appropriate, in finalizing his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, which will be reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-third session, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at its spring 2003 session and the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

* E/CN.3/2003/1.

** The present note was submitted late with respect to the forecasted submission date according to the slotting system, due to necessary consultations within the Secretariat.

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Annex

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2004-02005 for the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

1. The programme of work has been formulated within the framework of subprogramme 5 (Statistics) of programme 7 (Economic and social affairs) of the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

2. The Statistics Division carries out its activities in collaboration and cooperation with other offices of the Secretariat, such as the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, in the preparation of the data for the annual millennium development goals progress report. In particular, the Division cooperates very closely with statistical divisions and units in the regional commissions, in the specialized agencies, in the United Nations funds and programmes, in a number of non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations and in countries. It acts as the secretariat of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, which provides technical inputs into the work of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. In the context of its programme element of "statistical capacity-building", the Division also frequently cooperates with other international, interregional, regional and national organizations. In the context of methodological development work, the Division has close contacts with international professional associations, notably the International Statistical Institute, and with academic communities, and is working to strengthen that collaboration in specific programmes. In general, those types of collaboration and cooperation include joint projects, training and workshops with other agencies and developing countries, the preparation of reports, participation in meetings, briefings, technical and substantive support of inter-agency meetings, and the sharing of information and experience.

Objectives

To promote international comparability of statistics through the standardization of statistical methods, classifications and definitions used by national statistical offices and to reach international agreement on the use and usefulness of relevant concepts and methods.

Expected accomplishment(s)	*Indicator(s) of achievement*
(a) Strengthened capacity of national statistical offices in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to routinely produce, analyse and disseminate statistical data, with improved quality, availability, usefulness and accessibility, including the indicator series for monitoring the achievement of the goals and targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;	(a) (i) Feedback from participants in workshops and expert group meetings on knowledge gained and improvement of skills needed to produce, analyse and disseminate statistical data; (ii) Feedback from countries on the contribution of advisory missions to improving their ability to produce, analyse and disseminate statistical data;

Expected accomplishment(s)	*Indicator(s) of achievement*
	(iii) Feedback from participants at workshops and expert groups on the quality, availability, usefulness and accessibility of the statistical data published by the Division;
(b) Enhancement of the comparability of statistics among countries through applying standardized methods and procedures for the measurement of economic and social phenomena, including poverty and gender equality;	(b) (i) Feedback from participants at workshops and expert group meetings on knowledge gained about methods and procedures for the measurement of economic and social phenomena; (ii) Feedback from focus groups and expert group meetings and feedback via web sites on the usefulness of United Nations publications, web sites and newsletters on methods and procedures;
(c) Better understanding of and effective response by national statistical offices to new and critical issues in the fields of governance of statistical systems and international trade, national accounts, energy, environment, demographic and social statistics;	(c) Number of technical reports on new and critical issues in statistics reviewed by directors of national statistical offices in the Statistical Commission;
(d) A strengthened global statistical system, which includes increased participation of countries and increased collaboration among international organizations;	(d) Number of participants from countries and international organizations attending Statistical Commission sessions;
(e) Progress in the rationalization and harmonization of development indicators based on decisions of the Economic and Social Council;	(e) Number of collaborative activities carried out with international organizations on the rationalization and harmonization of development indicators;
(f) Increased understanding of the use of geographical information systems (GIS) for modern surveying and mapping activities at the national and international levels.	(f) Feedback from participants at the regional cartography conferences for Asia and the Pacific and for the Americas and the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names on how their knowledge of GIS has increased.

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that national statistical offices will have the necessary resources and capacity.

Output[a]

During the biennium 2004-2005, the following final outputs will be delivered:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget)*

General Assembly:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings. Meetings of the Fifth Committee on the scale of assessments (20);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Background documents and conference room papers on the scale of assessments for the Fifth Committee (2);

Statistical Commission:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings. Meetings of the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions of the Statistical Commission (12);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Reports to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions on topics to be decided by the Commission at its thirty-fourth (2003) and thirty-fifth (2004) sessions (20);

Committee on Contributions:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings. Meetings of the Committee on Contributions (60);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Background documents and conference room papers on the scale of assessments for the Committee on Contributions (2);

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings. Meetings of the twenty-second session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (18);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-second session (1);

United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings. Meetings of the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (9);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Report of the Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (1);

Ad hoc expert groups:

Symposium on the world population and housing census programme: current needs and future prospects, 2004 (1);

Revision of the handbook on index numbers of industrial production (1);

Manual on tourism and environmental accounting (1);

International economic and social classifications (1);

Technical subgroup meetings on classifications (1);

Poverty statistics (1);

Millennium development goals indicators (1);

(b) *Other substantive activities (regular budget)*

Recurrent publications:

Demographic Yearbook, 2002 and 2003 editions (print) (2);

Demographic Yearbook Special Topic (CD-ROM) (1);

Population and Vital Statistics Report, quarterly issue (print and Internet) (16);

Web site on demographic and social statistics, annual update (2);

Web site on social indicators, annual update (4);

National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables, 2002 and 2003 editions (print) (2);

National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates, 2002 and 2003 editions (print) (2);

Web site on national accounts, annual update (2);

Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook, 2002 and 2003 editions (print and CD-ROM) (4);

Web site on industry statistics, annual update (2);

Energy Statistics Yearbook, 2002 and 2003 editions (print) (2);

Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles 2002 (print) (1);

Web site on energy statistics, annual update (2);

International Trade Statistics Yearbook, vols. I and II (print) (4);

International trade statistics (CD-ROM and Internet) (6);

Web site on international trade statistics, annual update (2);

Web site on international trade in services, annual update (2);

Compendium of Environment Statistics and Indicators 2003 (print) (1);

Environmental Country Profiles 2003 (Internet) (1);

Web site on environment statistics, annual update (2);

Web site on good practices in official statistics, annual update (2);

Web site on methodological work, annual update (2);

Web site on city groups, annual update (2);

Web site on classifications, annual update (2);

Statistical Yearbook, 2004 and 2005 editions (print and CD-ROM) (4);

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, 2004-2005 (print and Internet) (48);

World Statistics in Brief, 2004 and 2005 editions (print and Internet) (4);

Millennium Development Goals: Data and Trends, 2004 and 2005 editions (print and Internet) (4);

Web site of the millennium development goals indicators, annual update (2);

United Nations Statistics Division Internet home page, quarterly update (8);

Web site of United Nations Statistics Division publications archive (2);

Statistics Newsletter (print and Internet) (24);

Web site of the Common Database, quarterly update (8);

Web site of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, annual update (2);

Web site on the Statistical Commission, annual update (2);

Non-recurrent publications:

International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics (1);

Revised publication of the *Index Numbers of Industrial Production* (1);

Supplement to the *Compilers Manual for International Merchandise Trade Statistics* (1);

Revised *Glossary of Environment Statistics* (print and Internet) (2);

Statistical Codes of Countries and Areas, Revision 6, 2005 (1);

Basic manual on geographical names (1);

Romanization systems and formats and standards for toponymic data exchange (1);

Compendium on poverty statistics (1);

Technical material:

Technical guide for the development of census administrative reports (1);

Technical report on international migration statistics (1);

Recommendations for revising the industrial commodity list used for industrial statistics (1);

Database technical development and maintenance, documentation and training in the areas of environmental statistics, energy statistics, commodity production statistics, index numbers of industrial production, national accounts, demographic statistics, international trade statistics and classifications (2);

Standardized Statistical Data Metadata Exchange, collaboration with the International Monetary Fund, the Bank for International Settlements and others in inter-agency working group, 2005 (2);

Statistical Codes of Countries and Areas, (Internet) (2);

Development of software interfaces for automation of data entry from questionnaires (1);

Responses to ad hoc requests from member States and other users for information on internationally recommended concepts and methods, as well as national practices (2);

Responses to ad hoc requests for statistics on tapes, diskettes, CD-ROMs, e-mail and printouts (2);

Statistics report for the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on progress in implementing Millennium Declaration goals and targets (2);

(c) *Technical cooperation (regular budget/extrabudgetary)*[b]

Advisory services: advisory services in statistics and statistical data processing to assist in the enhancement of national capabilities in the statistical offices of developing countries;

Training courses, seminars and workshops: training workshops aimed at capacity-building in statistics for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in various areas of statistics;

Fellowships and grants: fellowships, short-term training, study tours and on-the-job training for national statisticians from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to upgrade and strengthen their knowledge and skills in the area of statistics and to develop regional and international networks; as well as in the area of cartography;

Field projects: provision of technical services to member States and regional and interregional projects and training to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening national capabilities in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics, and of advice and technical assistance on the scale of assessment methodology to other organization.

Notes

[a] Totals for each output, i.e. number of meetings, reports, updates etc., appear in parentheses after each output.

[b] These outputs will need to support specific programmes and priorities for developing statistical capacity-building, such as censuses, surveys of various kinds, environment statistics, analytical reporting such as for millennium development goals indicators of various kinds, and collaboration with international funds, agencies and programmes in achieving coordinated national statistical programmes.